

### Abstract

The present invention relates to compositions and methods for the selection and use of surface exposed epitopes. The present invention includes *in vivo* and *in vitro* phage peptide display methods for the identification and selection of peptides and peptide associated factors with desired properties (*e.g.*, targeting specificity, stability, etc.). The present invention further provides methods and compositions for the isolation and identification of peptide-specific antibodies. The present invention also includes methods and compositions employing nuclear localization signals for enhanced nuclear transport and expression of DNA.